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SUBJECT: JAPANESE THOUGHTS ON PARIS SUPPORT CONFERENCE FOR
AFGHANISTAN

REF: STATE 44359

Classified By: Ambassador J. Thomas Schieffer for reasons 1.4(b) and (d)
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11. (C) Negotiations within MOFA and with the Ministry of Finance are currently underway to determine Japan's next steps with regard to pledging support for Afghanistan, according to MOFA Second Middle East Division Principal Deputy Director Motosada Matano. He told Political Officer the Paris conference comes at a good time for Japan, as it has just about exhausted its original USD 1.45 billion dollar pledge and needs to decide upon a new commitment and pledge for the years ahead. He is hopeful that Japan will come up with "a tangible figure" for the conference. Political Officer stressed the need for funds to support the election process and suggested that Japan would be well suited to providing this type of assistance, along with support for other projects and initiatives.

12. (C) With regard to attendance, Matano said his bureau is pushing hard to get Foreign Minister Koumura to attend. The conference is scheduled to take place on a date the Diet is not in session, so some of the domestic political considerations that make it difficult for him to travel when the Diet is in session will not be present. That said, Matano cautioned that it is too soon to say exactly who will lead the Japanese delegation to Paris.
SCHIEFFER